

CREATION OF PESTICIDE-POLIREsISTANT *TRICHODERMA* STRAINS FOR BIOCONTROL PURPOSES BY MUTAGENESIS AND PROTOPLAST FUSION

L. HATVANI, A. SZEKERES, L. MANCZINGER

Department of Microbiology, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

L. KREDICS, Z. ANTAL

Hungarian Academy of Sciences and University of Szeged, Microbiological Research Group, Szeged, Hungary

Among 128 isolates of *Trichoderma*, five cold-tolerant strains were found to possess excellent *in vitro* antagonistic properties against plant pathogenic *Microdochium nivale*, *Fusarium culmorum*, *F. oxysporum* and *Pythium debaryanum* strains [1]. From the 16 pesticides tested, 7 fungicides, copper sulphate, carbendazim, mancozeb, tebuconazol, imazalil, captan and thiram showed significant inhibition of the *Trichoderma* strains, the minimal inhibitory concentrations were approximately 300, 0.4, 50, 100, 100, 100 and 50 µg/ml, respectively.

The effect of the 2 *Trichoderma* isolates on the germination of wheat seeds and on the growth of the plants was examined. The seeds and the plants were not impaired, furthermore, the presence of the *Trichoderma* strains had an unequivocally positive influence on germination and growth as compared with the control.

Mutants resistant to copper sulphate, carbendazim, mancozeb and tebuconazol were isolated from 2 *Trichoderma atroviride* strains by ultraviolet light mutagenesis [2]. The cross-resistance capabilities and *in vitro* antagonistic properties of the mutants were determined in the presence of sublethal concentrations of distinct fungicides mentioned above. Carbendazim-resistant mutants showed total cross-resistance to benomyl and thiabendazole at a concentration of 20 µg/ml.

RAPD analysis of the genomic DNA from the wild-type and pesticide-resistant mutant strains was performed in order to find genetic markers enabling the identification of these strains isolated back from nature. Our pesticide-resistant mutant strains can be identified unequivocally based on their resistance and RAPD markers.

Protoplast fusion was carried out using carbendazim and tebuconazol resistant mutants of the 2 starter strains and 3 haploid recombinants were found among the heterocaryons of the strain T66. These pesticide-poliresistant mutants are potential candidates for application in complex integrated pest management.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by grants F037663 of the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund and OMFB-00219/02 (BIO-017/01) of the Hungarian Ministry of Education.